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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

## DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

12 December 1985

## Libya's Increased Subversive Activity in Mali

## Summary

A new priority of Libyan subversion in Sub-Saharan Africa apparently is Mali, which has been expanding contacts with France and the United States over the past several years. Qadhafi is determined to prevent Paris and Washington from increasing their influence in Bamako and almost certainly believes a pro-Libyan government there would provide a foothold for subverting moderate regimes in Senegal and the Ivory Coast. [redacted]

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\* \* \* \* \*

Libyan Activity

[redacted] a major Libyan effort is underway to establish a network in Mali to destabilize the increasingly pragmatic regime of President Traore. Qadhafi's visit to Mali last week almost certainly was intended in part as a signal to Malian dissidents of his personal support and interest in their activities. Members of his entourage also could have made contact with dissidents and discussed operational procedures. [redacted]

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Libyan tactics include recruiting and training Malian dissidents and placing them in Mali. [redacted]

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] the Maghreb Branch, Arab-Israeli Division, Office of Near East and South Asian Analysis. Information as of 12 December 1985 was used in preparation of this paper. Questions and comments should be directed to Chief, Arab-Israeli Division, [redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Libya also  
could have inserted Malian dissidents among the over 2,500 Malian  
workers expelled from Libya last August. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Tripoli also is trying to stir up unrest in the countryside  
by exploiting traditional opposition among Tuarag tribesmen to  
central government control. An unknown number of Tuarag  
tribesmen from Mali reportedly arrived for training in the Sebha  
military district in late October or early November. The training  
site probably is at Ghat which [REDACTED] is  
Libya's primary training camp for Malian dissidents and is  
located in the Sebha Military District. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Libyans also  
are trying to broaden their contacts among Malian youth groups,  
workers, and artisans by including them in the Libyan-Malian  
Friendship Association founded last April. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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In addition, the Libyans reportedly attempted to obtain  
information on the different languages spoken in Mali and have  
hinted that they intend to beam radio programs into the  
country. [REDACTED]

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### Libyan Motives

In our view, there are several reasons why Malian President  
Traore has attracted Qadhafi's attention. The Malian regime has  
broadened its contacts with the US in the past year and even  
expressed an interest in acquiring US military equipment.  
Qadhafi perceives US influence in Africa as a primary impediment

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to his own plans for regional domination. Moreover, Qadhafi also sees Washington as behind recent Israeli successes in reestablishing ties with several African states. [REDACTED]

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In addition, Mali maintains good relations with France, whose interests worldwide also are priority targets for Qadhafi. Libyan officials could not have been pleased with Bamako's willingness last April to arrange an unsuccessful reconciliation meeting between Chadian President Habre and Libyan-backed leader Goukouni on behalf of France and without Libyan approval. [REDACTED]

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Libya probably also regards Mali as strategically located for building a base for subversion against other moderate regimes in the region, particularly Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Both governments have what Qadhafi perceives as uncomfortably close relations with both Washington and Paris, and are the leading powers in West Africa, outside of Nigeria. Moreover, in the case of Ivory Coast, Abidjan is expected at any time to announce the resumption of relations with Tel Aviv, setting off similar moves among other African governments. [REDACTED]

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